

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 1906.

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. PLYMOUTH.

FARCICAL GAME AT KINGSHOLM.

GLOUCESTER PILE UP POINTS.

Owing to Plymouth being engaged at home in a cup tie match with Devon Albion, it was practically a reserve fifteen which appeared at Gloucester to-day for the return fixture with the City team. Gloucester were short of Hudson, Gent, and Collins. The weather was beautifully fine, but the attendance was only moderate.

The teams took the field as follows : —

Gloucester. — G. Romans, back; C. Smith, E. Hall, J. Harrison, and L. Vears, three-quarter backs; A. E. Wood and J. Stephens, half-backs; W. Johns (captain), A. Hawker, B. Parham, F. Pegler, W. Holder, G. Vears, G. Matthews, and J. Merchant, forwards.

Plymouth. — Fuzzard, back; Kerr, Bragg, Poole, and Bennett, three-quarter backs; Martin and Small, half-backs; Roberts, Daniells, Long, Hookridge, White, Harter, Peters, and Marson, forwards.

Referee : Mr. H. Smith (Bristol).

THE GAME.

Gloucester lost the toss, and Hawker kicked off against a powerful sun. There was an exchange of kicks, which left play at the centre. The visitors gained a dozen yards with a forward rush, but Stephens and Smith combined in a pretty movement which recovered the ground.

In the next minute Stephens robbed the opposing half and passed to Wood, who punted down well. Poole secured and returned to Harrison, who beat a couple of men, but passed forward to Parham.

Immediately the Gloucester backs put in a nice bout of passing, but Hall was collared by the full-back in trying to cut inside. The City went close to the line with good work, and the ball coming out from Wood, an exchange of passes gave L. Vears an easy try. Romans failed at goal.

Following the drop-out Johns was prominent with a good burst, but he was stopped in time. Useful kicks brought Plymouth out to mid-field, where some loose play was witnessed.

Wood failing to gather, the opposing half-backs dribbled to Romans, who got in a good return. The Gloucester forwards continued to heel nicely, but the ball appeared light and difficult to handle.

From a pretty move by Wood, Hall got away cleverly, but he held too long, and was pulled down. Gloucester attacked again with passing, but Smith's re-pass to Hall was forward. With a big punt Poole kicked down the field, and Romans having to run back was collared a few yards from his line. Plymouth were penalised at the subsequent scrum for off-side, and Romans cleared to the 25.

A good kick by Harrison further improved matters, and ensuing play was contested at mid-field. Wood was instrumental in giving Gloucester the advantage again, and with pretty footwork the City half took the ball over the line, but a try was lost through two home players fumbling.

Plymouth dropped out, but the game continued in their half. The visitors' outside tackled well, but at length Stephens whipped out a wide pass, and after some exchanges between Hall, Harrison, and L. Vears, the latter dashed over in the corner with a splendid try. Romans failed at goal.

On the re-start, Plymouth gained a footing in the home half, but the City soon changed the venue, chiefly through Wood. The same player later broke away from a subsequent scrum, and worked out a pretty opening for Smith, who took Stephens' pass and scored easily. No goal resulted.

There was a misunderstanding on the part of a couple of Gloucester players as to who should take the drop-out, with the result that the ball bounced to Romans. The latter ran across the ground, but he was pressed by a Plymouth forward, and only got in a weak punt to touch.

The visitors, taking advantage of some looseness on the part of the home team, had a possible opening, but they failed to utilise it. Then Stephens raced clean away to the full-back and passed, but the ball went astray. It was, however, picked up, and another round of passing started, ending in Smith beating the opposition and scoring a fine try. Romans failed to add the extra points.

On the re-start Smith was again to the fore with a beautiful dodgy run, and another score was only checked by a knock-on. Gloucester still attacked, and following a long throw-out by Johns the ball reached L. Vears, who, with another splendid dash, scored his third try. Wood had the shot at goal, but was unsuccessful.

Plymouth resumed, but they were hopelessly outclassed, and L. Vears was nearly through again. Plymouth eventually worked out beyond the 25, where Johns secured in the loose, and after a short burst he passed to Hawker, who ran over behind the posts. Romans kicked a goal.

A fine dribble by a visiting forward was applauded on the resumption, and a foul being given against a Gloucester man, the visitors were awarded a free. The kick enabled Plymouth to reach the home 25, but here the City backs got off with a superb movement. Hall cut through grandly and sent out a pass to Vears, who took the leather cleverly, and with a grand dash apparently scored in the corner. A touch-in-goal, however, was given.

It mattered little, for in less than a couple of minutes the home backs were away again, and after pretty work by Hall, Smith ran over with the seventh try of the match. The place-kick was successful. Soon afterwards half-time was called.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester 2 goals, 5 tries
Plymouth Nil

Plymouth re-started, but the City were at once placed on the attack. After Hall had just failed to cross in the corner, the same player was set going again, and with a smart burst he went over under the posts. Romans goaled.

Plymouth kicked off from the centre, but they were immediately called upon to defend. Smith showed up with a good run down touch and pass to Johns, but the transfer was ruled forward. A minute later, however, Vears was easily put in by Harrison, and Romans converted.

The game continued a farce, the opposition being of the weakest. Following a long dribble by Johns and Matthews, G. Vears was credited with a try, and Parham was the next to score, both tries being converted.

L. Vears next made a capital run, and Parham had no one to beat between him and the line, but he was overhauled. Gloucester, however, had matters all their own way, and Smith added two tries to the score after clever handling. One was converted.

Play tamed down after this, but great amusement was caused by Johns' failure to score after taking the ball over the line. Before the end Harrison, Hall, and L. Vears added further tries, conversion following in each instance.

RESULT :

Gloucester 10 goals, 7 tries (71 points)
Plymouth Nil

REMARKS.

We have had some farcical games at Kingsholm this season, but to-day's match capped everything. The visitors were of a class associated with a local side, and poor at that, and never had a look in.

Gloucester scored 17 tries in all, but quite a dozen scores were missed by forward passes with practically no one to beat. The City materially added to their aggregate of points, but this does not count for much when registered against teams of such a class as the one which represented Plymouth.

The try-getters were : L. Vears 6, C. Smith 5, Hall 2, and Hawker, G. Vears, Parham, and Harrison 1 each. Romans landed ten goals in all – converting eight out of the ten scored in the second half.

The 71 points is the second highest ever scored by Gloucester, the record being 74 against Clifton in 1901-2.

GLOUCESTER A v. BRISTOL A.

At Bristol. Gloucester started. Bristol attacked, gaining a minor. Smith relieved, and Goddard scored for the visitors, Hayward converting.

Goddard's try was gained after a brilliant individual run. Bristol, however, did most of the attacking, and before the interval Eustace Meyer scored for Bristol, but the try was unconverted.

Righton also scored, and Levy majorised.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Bristol	1 goal, 1 try
Gloucester	1 goal

Re-starting Hollins was ordered off. Bristol monopolised the play. The Gloucester captain was later ordered off. It was a rough game.

RESULT :

Bristol 1 goal, 1 try (8 points)

Gloucester 1 goal (5 points)

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